

Amendments to the Drawings

The July 11, 2007 Office Action objected to the drawings because Figure 6 failed to label element “608” which was referenced in the specification. The attached sheet includes Figure 6 with element “608” labeled as such so that Figure 6 corresponds better with the written specification (e.g., Present Application, Page 5, Lines 6-9). This sheet, which includes Figure 6, replaces the original sheet including Figure 6.

No new matter is introduced by way of this amendment to the drawings and acceptance of Figure 6, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action of July 11, 2007.

In the July 11, 2007 Office Action, claims 1-2 and 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,809,759 to Chiang, claims 7-13 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Chiang in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,095,982 to Mizutani. Claims 3-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Chiang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,060 to Wakui. Claims 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Chiang in view of Mizutani and Wakui.

Claims 1-12

Independent claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,809,759 (Chiang). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. In response, claim 1 has been amended to include a user module with an internal display device and an external display device. (Present Application, Figures 2, 3 and 4) In clear contrast, the user module of Chiang includes only 1 display. The other references cited in the July 11, 2007 Office Action, Mizutani and Wakui, each respectively disclose a user module with only 1 display or no display at all.

Amended claim 1 provides the flexibility to arrange the components of the user module, so that it is compact, yet at least one display is visible to the user. For example, in the embodiment shown in Figure 3, the user module RD is open so that its keypad KP and the internal display ID are visible. Alternatively, in Figure 2, the user module RD is closed, and is therefore more compact, yet at least one display – in this case, the external display – is still visible. Regardless of whether the user module is open as shown in the embodiment of Figure 2 or closed and in its more compact form as shown in the embodiment of Figure 3, a display – either the internal display or the external display – is visible to the user.

Having two display devices on the user module allows the module to have a user input unit, such as a keypad, and yet fit compactly within the camera, while at least one of the two display devices is visible to a user. The Chiang, Mizutani and Wakui designs are representative of the less compact and inefficient prior art designs, the disadvantages of which the present invention overcomes. In particular, size and efficiency as provided by claim 1 of the present invention is a key factor in today's digital camera market, where due to the numerous functions and components of digital cameras, making them smaller, yet more efficient is more difficult for designers, and more important for users. Accordingly, it is

submitted that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-12 that depend from claim 1 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 13-20

Independent claim 13 was rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,809,759 (Chiang) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,095,982 (Mizutani). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. In response, claim 13 has been amended to include “an audio signal input through the microphone of the user module [that] may be transmitted to the main body and linked to an image file” (emphasis added). (Present Application, Figure 6 and Page 7, Lines 1-13)

Chiang does not disclose a user module that has a microphone, and Mizutani does not disclose a user module that transmits an audio signal to the digital camera and links the audio signal to an image file. Mizutani discloses a user module that captures an audio signal, but only stores the audio signal within the memory 329 of the communication apparatus (or user module) 300. (Mizutani, Column 8, Lines 2-8) The third reference cited in the July 11, 2007 Office Action, Wakui, like Chiang, does not disclose a user module that has a microphone.

Amended claim 13 allows a user to use the user module to capture audio signals, transmit them to the digital camera and link them to an image file. Thus, a user can record audio signals of better sound quality using the microphone of the user module instead of a microphone that may be on the digital camera itself, since the user can carry the user module and keep it close by even when the digital camera is farther away.

Allowing the user module, which can receive digital image signals and send user input signals, to record audio signals that can be transmitted to the digital camera and linked to an image file has many advantages: it reduces the number of peripheral devices for the camera that the user has to keep track of and carry; it reduces the number of peripheral devices that the user must provide with power such as, for example, by providing batteries or an AC adapter; and it reduces the number of peripheral devices that the user has to learn to operate. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 13 is allowable. Claims 14-20 that depend from claim 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

In re Appln. of Seishi Ohmori
Application No. 10/786,783
Response to Office Action of July 11, 2007

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, all pending claims in the present application are believed to be allowable. Thus, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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